

ORDERLY AND RESPONSIBLE IRAQ
REDEPLOYMENT APPROPRIA-
TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4156, the "Orderly and Responsible Iraq Redeployment Appropriations Act," and I want to commend Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leadership for bringing this bill to the Floor today.

The American people want a new direction in Iraq. By every measure, this war has cost Americans far too much—whether it's lives lost, dollars spent, or our reputation tarnished around the world.

H.R. 4156 would provide critical funding for the troops while also requiring that troops begin to redeploy from Iraq within 30 days of enactment with a goal of completion by December 15, 2008. The legislation would ensure that troops are not deployed to Iraq unless they have been fully trained and equipped. H.R. 4156 also would extend to all U.S. Government agencies and personnel the current prohibitions contained in the Army Field Manual against torture.

Just this week the Joint Economic Committee, of which I am a vice chair, released a study to examine the broader impact of the war on the American economy. So far the full economic costs of the Iraq war are about double the immense Federal budget costs that have been reported to the American people.

The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that Federal spending on the war could reach \$2.4 trillion by 2017. Our JEC report finds that when you add in the "hidden costs" of the war, the total economic costs will rise by over \$1 trillion to \$3.5 trillion. The report reveals how we are all paying for this war one way or another—whether it's higher prices at the pump, lost business investment, rising interest payments on the debt, or fixing all the broken bodies and our stretched military.

The President has asked Congress for an additional \$200 billion for Iraq, bringing the total request to \$607 billion in direct expenditures since the start of the war. This is well over 10 times more than the \$50 to \$60 billion cost estimated by the Administration prior to the start of the war, with no end in sight from this President.

This legislation sends the President an important message: start bringing our troops home, now.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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SPEECH OF

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is the most important bill the House takes up this year because it will bring an end

to the war in Iraq by bringing our troops home safely, honorably, and responsibly.

The bill mandates the start of an "immediate and orderly" withdrawal of U.S. armed forces in Iraq within 30 days after enactment. It also requires that the reduction of forces be done in conjunction with comprehensive diplomatic, political, and economic strategies involving Iraq's neighbors.

The bill provides \$50 billion for the cost of redeployment, not the \$196.4 billion the President has requested to keep the war going.

H.R. 4156 prohibits the use of torture on any person under U.S. custody. This is absolutely necessary because the Administration continues to defend this technique which is not sanctioned in the U.S. Army Field Manual.

The war in Iraq has taken a severe toll on our military. One and one-half million military personnel (or 30 percent of our military) have been deployed to Iraq more than once. Many of our soldiers are redeployed in less than a year. Our troops are exhausted, their equipment is shot and yet the President remains firmly committed to a Korea-like presence in Iraq for years. Our military readiness is severely threatened and our country is less safe today because of the President's ill-conceived and botched-up execution of this war.

The legislation recognizes our military readiness is at its lowest point since the Vietnam war and in order to reverse this, it requires that the President certify to Congress 15 days prior to deployment that our armed forces are "fully mission capable."

This Administration's sole focus on Iraq has left Afghanistan in an extraordinary state of vulnerability. We have seen the reemergence of the Taliban, soaring drug production, and the increase of attacks on U.S. and NATO forces. By all measures, the country is at risk of slipping away. This is a terrible and dangerous mistake. Although time is short, there is still an opportunity to defeat our enemies in Afghanistan once and for all. The President must acknowledge what's at stake and immediately take action to prevent the country from returning to what it was—a haven for international terrorism.

The President's justification for the surge was that "reducing the violence in Baghdad will help make reconciliation possible." By all accounts, including the August 2007 National Intelligence Estimate, NIE, the Iraqi government's political progress is stalled. The NIE stated that the "Iraqi Government will continue to struggle to achieve national-level political reconciliation and improved governance." The NIE goes on to state that "broadly accepted political compromises required for sustained security . . . are unlikely to emerge unless there is a fundamental shift in the factors driving Iraqi political developments." It is clear from this NIE that the Iraqi government has done little if anything to initiate political reconciliation.

The American people are demanding a new direction in Iraq. They do not want the President's 10-year war with no end in sight. In fact 68 percent of Americans oppose the war in Iraq and 60 percent support a withdrawal of our troops.

I strongly support this legislation and urge my colleagues to do so as well. We can begin a new and better chapter for America and the world by changing the policy in Iraq.

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TIONS ACT, 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation before us today because I believe it represents a safe and responsible way to bring our troops home from Iraq. The President has had more than four years to demonstrate leadership in Iraq, but at every turn his decisions have dragged us deeper into an ethnic and sectarian crisis that the President seems incapable of solving. Eleven months ago, the bipartisan Iraq Study Group released its report, which offered a comprehensive plan to build up the Iraqi government and create the political and security stability needed to bring our troops home. Unfortunately, the President rejected this bipartisan approach and instead implemented his troop surge. As a result, 2007 was the deadliest year for our troops since the beginning of the war, and we are no closer to a political solution to the problems in Iraq than we were when the troop surge began. Because the President refuses to take responsibility for his failed strategy, I believe it is time for Congress to act.

The legislation before us today provides our troops with the funding and equipment they need to safely do their job. This includes funding for our continued efforts to provide security and support for the government of Afghanistan. However, it is a far cry from the blank check that the President requested. It requires the President to begin redeploying troops out of Iraq within 30 days of enactment, and sets a goal for total redeployment by December 15, 2008. The bill also requires the President to undertake diplomatic efforts designed to engage other regional and international actors in providing for a secure Iraq. It includes important provisions that ensure the first troops sent home are the ones who have served in Iraq the longest, and that no more troops can be sent to Iraq unless they have all of the equipment and training that they need.

I had hoped that this bill would also include funding to address the growing refugee crisis in Iraq. While I am disappointed this issue is not being addressed today, I have been assured that Congress will act soon to assist the millions of Iraqis who have been displaced because of sectarian fighting.

This legislation is not perfect, but I believe that it is worth supporting because it will require the President to do something he has so far refused to do: explain to the public how he plans to get our troops out of Iraq. In fact, this bill would make it clear to the President that he will not get one more dime from Congress until his redeployment plan has been submitted. I applaud Chairman OBEY for staying true to his pledge to send the President an Iraq spending bill with accountability and timelines built in. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation because it represents an important first step towards holding the President accountable and safely bringing our troops home from Iraq.

IN HONOR OF DR. SCOTT D.
MILLER

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Scott D. Miller, the esteemed President of Wesley College for the past ten years. The College's Board of Trustees Chairman recently described Scott Miller's service as "a legacy of accomplishment. During Dr. Miller's tenure, the College's enrollment has tripled, fund raising has been remarkable, the endowment has doubled and the institution has been named to the prestigious Regional Best Colleges list of the U.S. News & World Report list for the fourth consecutive year."

A native of western Pennsylvania, Dr. Miller's career has been dedicated to higher education. Although he is only forty-eight years old, Dr. Miller has already served a remarkable seventeen years as a chief executive officer at institutions of higher learning—a testament to his leadership skills and unique vision. In my years of working with Dr. Miller on a variety of issues, I have found him to be an insightful and energetic man with a genuine passion for education.

Dr. Miller's impact on education is certainly not limited to his leadership of Wesley College. He is actively involved in the local community and in higher education at a national level. He was recognized by the American Council on Education in 2004 as among only seventeen college presidents who have advanced their institutions through entrepreneurial leadership. I have no doubt that we will continue to hear great things about Dr. Miller for many years to come.

I congratulate Scott Miller for his years of exemplary service to Wesley College and his countless contributions to the City of Dover and its surrounding communities. On behalf of all Delawareans, I would like to thank Scott and his family for their commitment during the past decade. We wish him all the best as he continues to excel in his career and assumes another important leadership role as President of Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia.

COMMEMORATING EL CASINO
BALLROOM'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate El Casino Ballroom's 60th anniversary.

For sixty years, El Casino Ballroom in Tucson, Arizona has been a community and culture center in Tucson and much of Southern Arizona.

El Casino has touched the lives of many generations; it is a place where families and friends celebrate weddings, quinceañeras, anniversaries, and major events in our lives. It has been a center of culture and history for generations.

For the community, El Casino is the place you look forward to going for concerts, where

you hope to see your child celebrate his or her marriage, and where you know any event will bring together new and old friends. For the young, your first celebration at El Casino is a rite of passage.

To celebrate and thank El Casino Ballroom for their service to the community is also to remember how and why El Casino started. Three friends—Ramon Siqueiros, Benjamin Jacobs and Adolfo Loustaunau—brought their vision for a place for Mexican-American families to gather. The friends purchased the land and were part of the construction team that built the ballroom on 26th Street between 2nd and 3rd Avenues. They were the owners, the builders, the managers, and—with their families—the cooks.

For Tucson, El Casino Ballroom is a safe place. In 1947, places throughout Tucson were discriminatory, posting signs of who could and could not frequent the clubs. El Casino was open to all—Mexican Americans, Anglos, African Americans, and anyone who wanted to dance, listen to music or celebrate.

Local and famous artists have performed throughout the years in the ballroom. Among the notables are: Little Joe, Vicente Fernandez, Perez Prado, Fats Domino, Little Richard, Pedro Infante, Javier Solis, Jose Alfredo Jimenez, Los Tigres del Norte, Los Lobos, Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlan, Duke Ellington, Ike and Tina Turner, Chuck Berry, Queen Ida and local son Lalo Guerrero.

El Casino Ballroom was sold to the Latin American Social Club, a group that is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this weekend. The Latin American Social Club is an organization committed to improving the community needs, and since 1968, they have kept El Casino open.

In 1991, El Casino was temporarily closed due to roof damage. From that temporary loss, the community had a void to fill. After much work, fundraising, construction, and community support, El Casino opened its doors again in 2000. The resurrection of this historical landmark was celebrated throughout Tucson.

When the doors opened, the regular crowds, enthusiasm, and celebrations commenced. The return of El Casino Ballroom was like the return of the most treasured family member.

I congratulate El Casino Ballroom on its anniversary; I wish them many more years so that current and future generations will continue to share in its cherished memories. El Casino is in our hearts. It is a strong part of our community, and is a natural extension of most Tucson families.

HONORING THE AMERICAN CANCER
SOCIETY AND THE 31ST
GREAT AMERICAN SMOKEOUT

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend the American Cancer Society and recognize today, November 15th, as the 31st anniversary of the Great American Smokeout. Across the country, smokers will mark this annual event by cutting back, forsaking cigarettes for the day, or perhaps quitting altogether.

Tragically, more than 440,000 people in America die each year from tobacco related diseases. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in both men and women—accounting for one in five deaths in the United States. Despite these statistics, however, there is promising news about the significant health effects of quitting. In 1990 the U.S. Surgeon General reported that people who quit smoking, regardless of age, live longer than people who continue to smoke. Quitting smoking substantially decreases the risk of 15 types of cancer and other major diseases, including lung, laryngeal, esophageal, oral, pancreatic, bladder, and cervical cancers. Smokers who quit before age 50 cut their risk of dying in the next 15 years in half, compared with those who continue to smoke.

In addition to encouraging smokers to make a plan to quit, the Great American Smokeout is a day for Americans to join the American Cancer Society and its sister advocacy organization, the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN) in their efforts to advocate for smoke-free laws in communities nationwide. The combination of smoke-free communities and smoking cessation support is critical to helping smokers quit and stay tobacco-free.

The American Cancer Society Great American Smokeout grew out of a 1971 event in Randolph, MA, during which Arthur P. Mullaney asked people to give up cigarettes for a day and donate the money they would have spent on cigarettes to a high school scholarship fund. In 1974, Lynn R. Smith, editor of the Monticello Times in Minnesota, spearheaded the state's first D-Day, or Don't Smoke Day. The idea caught on, and on November 18, 1976, the California Division of the American Cancer Society succeeded in getting nearly 1 million smokers to quit for the day. That California event marked the first Great American Smokeout, which went nationwide the next year.

The Great American Smokeout is part of the American Cancer Society Great American Health Challenge, a year-round initiative that encourages Americans to adopt healthy lifestyles to reduce their risk of cancer.

Madam Speaker, as a nurse, I know firsthand the significant health dangers inflicted by smoking. I am honored to acknowledge the American Cancer Society and their annual Great American Smokeout today. I wish them great success in pursuing their goal to assist those who wish to improve their health by quitting smoking.

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SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 14, 2007

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4156, the short-term war supplemental appropriations bill. Although I plan to oppose this bill, I am also pleased that its authors included several provisions meant to improve transparency and ensure U.S. troops are adequately trained and mission capable. Hopefully, the inclusion of these provisions